
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E., Director

PURPOSE:

The mission of the department is to conserve, protect, manage, and enhance the state's natural resources in order to provide the highest quality of life for Nevada's citizens and visitors.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The department consists of nine divisions and thirteen boards and commissions. The Office of the Director, Division of Conservation Districts, Divisions of Environmental Protection, Forestry, State Lands, Nevada Natural Heritage Program, State Parks, Water Resources, and Wildlife. The Natural Resources Advisory Board, Water Resources Planning and Development Advisory Board, Well Driller's Advisory Board, Board to Review Petroleum Claims, State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, State Conservation Commission, State Environmental Commission, Board for Financing Water Projects, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Wildlife Commission, Board of Review (State Lands), California-Nevada Interstate Compact, and Columbia Basin Interstate Compact.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.010 - 232.110
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	909.60 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4360
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/cnr

DEPARTMENT GOALS:

- ❑ Provide for the effective conservation, protection, management, and enhancement of the state's natural resources including its land, air, water, and biological resources for current and future generations.
- ❑ Protect the state's natural resources through the provision and enforcement of effective and equitable standards, policies, laws, and regulations.
- ❑ Develop and implement quality education programs along with public information services that focus on conservation and protection of the state's natural and recreational resources.
- ❑ Provide for the wise use and development of the state's natural and recreational resources, while actively and efficiently protecting the environment and natural ecosystems.
- ❑ Provide accessible, efficient, and cost effective services relating to the state's natural and recreational resources.
- ❑ Promote a range of resource planning, inventory, and research activities for the protection and use of the state's natural and recreational resources.

- ❑ Protect the state, its communities, its environment, and its people concerning the management, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous toxic waste, hazardous substances, and nuclear wastes.
- ❑ Protect the interests of the state, its communities, its people, and its natural resources with respect to federal activities.
- ❑ Provide a safe and healthy work environment and promote staff development within a framework of stable funding that allows for flexibility in the administration of conservation and natural resource programs.
- ❑ Ensure that effective public safety and emergency services are available to protect public welfare and the environment.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

PURPOSE:

The Director's Office provides the full scope of administrative, technical, budgetary, and supervisory support to the various divisions within the agency. Additionally, the Director's Office staff provides each of the divisions and programs with functional guidance and support in fiscal, human resources, natural resource planning matters, and administrative control of the department's Aviation Operations Unit, which furnishes aviation support to the Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife. Due to the highly technical issues surrounding the management of the state's natural resources, this office is actively involved in overseeing the adjudication of competing interest claims originating from private and governmental entities or stake-holders at both the federal and state level. The Director's Office also provides guidance to all of the boards and commissions.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Director's Office consists of two offices; the Administration office and the Fiscal Services office. The Fiscal Services office provides accounting and financial services to the Director's Office, Division of Conservation Districts, Division of State Lands, Division of Water Resources, Nevada Natural Heritage Program, and the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses. Additionally, the Fiscal Services office provides financial oversight for the department.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.010-232.070
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	10.5 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775 687.4360
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/cnr

OBJECTIVE:

Maximize the organizational and operational efficiency of the department's organization through a process of critical self-evaluation consistent with the principles embodied by the Governor's Fundamental Review Steering Committee.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

In October 2000, the Division of Water Planning was reorganized and programs within the Division of Water Planning were reassigned to other divisions within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This executive action resulted in a substantial savings to the state and provided for better organization and efficiency of the department.

OBJECTIVE:

Development of a State of Nevada Natural Resources Plan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Conducted workshops and a survey to produce an inventory of natural resource issues and prioritization of the issues in November 2000
- ❑ Completion and distribution of A Guide to Nevada State Statutes for Natural Resources Conservation and Development Report in December 2000
- ❑ Completion and distribution of the Nevada Natural Resources Status Report – Public Review Draft in June 2001
- ❑ Establish and maintain a web page for access to all Natural Resource Plan documents

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Expand the department's capabilities in the realm of electronic data sharing, communications, and networking facilities.
- ❑ Identify and secure consolidated office accommodations for all divisions in a central location.
- ❑ Provide managerial and administrative leadership and support to the various divisions in assisting their attainment of divisional long-term objectives.
- ❑ Preserve Nevada's primacy in all matters pertaining to natural resource management, whether under or impending litigation, including but not limited to air, water, land, flora/fauna, or waste-based issues.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Allen Biaggi, Administrator

PURPOSE:

The division is responsible for the statewide regulatory programs for the protection of the health and welfare and environment of the public. Programmatic areas include air quality, water quality, hazardous and solid waste, mining reclamation, highly hazardous chemicals and alternative fuels, federal facilities, waste management, and water pollution issues.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division is divided into nine units: Administration and eight Bureaus – the Bureaus of Air Quality Planning, Air Pollution Control, Water Pollution Control, Water Quality Planning, Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Corrective Actions, Waste Management, and Federal Facilities. The division also provides staff support for the State Environmental Commission and the Board to Review Petroleum Claims.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.136, 444, 444A, 445A, 445B, 445C, 459, 486A, 519A, 590, and 704
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	193 FTE/2002 December
TELEPHONE:	775. 687.4670
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	http://www.ndep.state.nv.us/

PUBLICATIONS:

- ❑ Nevada Nonpoint Source State Management Plan (SMP)
- ❑ Walker Lake and Walker River Water Quality Standards and Rationale
- ❑ 2002 CWA Section 303(d) Listing Methodology
- ❑ Virgin River, Bryant Creek, East Fork Owyhee River TMDL
- ❑ Air Quality Annual Report
- ❑ Water Quality Assessment (305B) Report
- ❑ 208 Water Quality Management Plans for Non-Designated Areas
- ❑ Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program Profile
- ❑ Handbook of Biosolids Analysis
- ❑ "A Guide to the Toxic Release Inventory for Nevada" prepared for NDEP by the Nevada Small Business Development Center, Business Environmental Program, 2000
- ❑ "Public Buildings Recycling Program Model Plan" prepared by the Solid Waste Program, October 2001
- ❑ "Draft Water Quality and Pollution Control Continuing Planning Process Document"

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

PURPOSE:

To support the division's Small Business Assistance Program and the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman focuses on providing technical assistance to businesses on how to comply with environmental regulatory programs. The Administrator's Office also contains the Office of Fiscal and Personnel Management and the Office of Information Management. These respective offices provide financial management oversight and computer management services.

OBJECTIVE:

Develop electronic mapping (GIS) and an INTERNET web site for the division to enhance planning and communication with regulated businesses and the public.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The division has developed and sustained an INTERNET site that provides information to the public on environmental and regulatory issues.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to modernize the division's electronic information management environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The division has engaged in a comprehensive review of how it manages its information management resources.
- ❑ The division has revamped the operating environment for computer activities.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The establishment of a computer operations and planning framework has helped the division to better focus its resources, especially the computer operating environment.

BUREAU OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

PURPOSE:

To achieve and maintain levels of air quality, which protect human health and safety, prevent injury to plant and animal life, prevent damage to property, and to preserve the scenic, historical and aesthetic treasures of the state. The bureau evaluates potential air quality impacts and establishes appropriate pollution control requirements through the issuance and enforcement of permits for stationary and temporary sources of air pollution in all areas of the state except in Clark and Washoe Counties. The bureau has statewide responsibility for controlling emissions from steam electric power.

OBJECTIVE:

Ensure that air pollutant sources operate in compliance with established air pollution control regulations and permit requirements.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

During the 2000/2001 biennium, the bureau has continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through permitting of new and existing sources of air pollution and has received final approval of the Title V permitting program.

OBJECTIVE:

Work with sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau has established a small source (Class III) permitting program, which provides a more streamlined and cost effective permit for small industry.

OBJECTIVE:

Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants, which may impact public health and the environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau has been working with developers and land use planners to address air quality issues in the Fernley area and along the Truckee River corridor.

OBJECTIVE:

Maintain an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

An increment tracking system has been developed and will be used to assist the local government and industry in locating new facilities in the area in order to better manage the available air resources.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The Bureau of Air Quality was divided into two separate bureaus; the Bureau of Air Quality Planning and the Bureau of Air Pollution Control in November 2001.

BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING

PURPOSE:

To plan, develop, and implement air pollution control programs. The bureau evaluates potential air quality impacts and establishes appropriate pollution control requirements through the preparation of state implementation plans, the development of regulations, and ambient air monitoring. The bureau is responsible for implementing the conversion of public fleets to alternative fuels. The bureau coordinates with the Department of Motor Vehicles on the vehicle emission inspection program in Clark and Washoe Counties, including a program for heavy-duty diesel trucks. The bureau is also responsible for ensuring compliance through technical assistance to the regulated community.

OBJECTIVE:

Operate and maintain an ambient air quality monitoring network to determine areas that approach or exceed the established state and federal health and welfare standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau has been working with EPA to clarify the status of the use of hydrographic basins as the planning area for the purposes of air quality planning in Nevada.

OBJECTIVE:

Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants, which may impact public health and the environment by maintaining an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions from both stationary and area sources statewide necessary to do regional haze planning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The bureau has been working with developers and land use planners to address air quality issues in the Fernley area and along the Truckee River corridor.
- An emission inventory and modeling will be completed by the end of FY 2002 that will facilitate future development while meeting air quality standards in those areas.

OBJECTIVE:

Work with local government and sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants in areas that are not in attainment with state or federal standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The bureau has continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through planning and coordination with local government.

OBJECTIVE:

The bureau is developing an emissions inventory, do the modeling, and create control measures necessary for an approvable regional haze SIP.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The bureau continues to monitor western regional efforts related to EPA's proposed regional haze control rule.
- ❑ The bureau continues to work extensively with Clark County on the development of its PM and carbon monoxide implementation plans.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

Regional haze program staff is beginning work on regional haze planning for Nevada.

BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

PURPOSE:

To issue wastewater discharge permits, conduct compliance inspections, enforce water pollution control permit requirements, administer the State Revolving Loan Fund program, review and approve the design of wastewater treatment facilities, review subdivision plans for water pollution and adequate sewage disposal, and conduct training and certification programs for wastewater treatment plant operators. In addition, the bureau administers the A.B. 198 grant program to assist small public owned drinking water systems.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue with early intervention through the water pollution control permitting program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The bureau has developed a program to permit Class V underground injection wells and is working in conjunction with Nevada's agricultural industry to develop a permitting program for confined animal feeding operations, such as dairies and feedlots.
- ❑ The bureau has also developed a program to permit the reuse of biosolids.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to assist Nevada's communities by the issuance of wastewater treatment construction loans, providing training, and technical assistance for wastewater treatment plant operators.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The bureau has processed \$140,198,371 in wastewater treatment facility construction loans from the State Revolving Loan program. Communities receiving loans include:

Mesquite, Winnemucca, Elko, Henderson, Yerington, West Wendover, Carson City, Sparks, Lovelock, Fernley, Jackpot, Incline Village GID, Washoe County, Indian Hills GID, Fallon, Silver Springs GID, and Battle Mountain.

- The bureau has provided grant funding to some of the following communities to bring their drinking water supply up to current state and federal requirements: Kingston, Silver Peak, Yerington-Mason, Moundhouse, Gerlach, Fallon, Tonopah, Virginia City, Caliente, Montello, etc. Total assistance provided since February 2001 is \$16,545,026.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The EPA has passed final rules for stormwater activities. These new “phase II” rules will apply to all urban centers and construction activities, one acre or larger.

BUREAU OF MINING REGULATION AND RECLAMATION

PURPOSE:

The Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation is divided into three major programs: the Regulation Branch, the Mine Closure Branch, and the Reclamation Branch.

The Regulation Branch is responsible for ensuring that the quality of Nevada's water resources is not adversely impacted by active mining operations. The branch issues permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conducts inspections, takes appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and reviews the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

The Mine Closure Branch regulates mines in closure, ensuring chemical stabilization of all components. This branch also issues permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conducts inspections, takes appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and reviews the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

The Mining Reclamation Branch ensures that land disturbed by mining and exploration activities is returned to a productive post-mining land use. The branch is responsible for issuing reclamation permits, reviewing bond cost estimates and establishing surety requirements, conducting compliance inspections, initiating regulatory actions, and reviewing the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide a well-established regulatory framework whereby environmentally responsible mining is encouraged and environmentally irresponsible mining is prevented.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

During the FY 2000-2001 biennium the bureau issued 78 permits and conducted 1,123 inspections. Most mining operations are now covered by water pollution control permits and reclamation permits.

OBJECTIVE:

Foster the development and implementation of more efficient and cost effective closure and reclamation methods.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Reclamation awards have been established to promote innovative, yet practical and cost effective techniques in mining reclamation.

OBJECTIVE:

Foster the development and implementation of more effective and practical methods to predict and manage pit lake water quality.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Sleeper Mine is an example where treatment of the water resulted in water quality being stabilized.

OBJECTIVE:

Foster the development and implementation of more effective and practical methods to characterize and manage acid generating waste rock.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Anglo Mining used under dump drain system that is considered to be innovative and a state of the art in mining water management.

OBJECTIVE:

Establish and sustain a system of surety that is durable fiscally secure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ A fund mechanism was established that provides a million dollar trust fund used to manage mining fluids at abandoned mining sites.
- ❑ Bonding for closure was tightened to provide a more overarching framework to deal with mining closure.

BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING

PURPOSE:

The bureau's purpose is to protect Nevada's limited surface waters through the establishment of water quality standards, monitoring, public education, and funding of water quality improvement projects. The bureau develops local, regional, and statewide plans to ensure water quality standards are maintained and impaired surface waters are restored where possible.

OBJECTIVE:

Review and update water quality standards and beneficial uses at least once every three years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- From 1998 through 2001, bureau staff developed new water quality standards for Walker Lake and revisions to existing standards for Walker River. The Nevada Environmental Commission adopted the Walker River revisions and water quality standards for Walker Lake in December 2001.
- A lawsuit filed by Mineral County and the Walker Lake Working Group is currently pending against the EPA over Walker Lake.

OBJECTIVE:

Conduct statewide water quality sampling to determine compliance with applicable standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Water quality monitoring continues to be performed by the bureau to verify compliance with the standards on all major water systems within Nevada.

OBJECTIVE:

Prepare water quality assessment reports and impaired surface water listings.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The draft listing has been prepared for public review.

OBJECTIVE:

Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to improve surface water quality.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

TMDL's were prepared for the Virgin and Muddy Rivers and submitted to EPA for approval.

OBJECTIVE:

Mitigate the adverse effects from nonpoint source pollution through implementation of water quality improvement projects and public education.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau is funding approximately 50 water quality improvement projects statewide.

OBJECTIVE:

Prepare a final Continuing Planning Process (CPP) document for how water quality standards, permits, and impaired listings are prepared and processed.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

A draft of the CPP was been prepared for public review.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

Ground water programs within the division were consolidated in 2001. The Wellhead and Ground Water Protection programs within the bureau were moved to the Bureau of Water Pollution Control.

BUREAU OF FEDERAL FACILITIES

PURPOSE:

The bureau oversees environmental remediation activities being initiated on Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DOE) installations. These activities are related to the clean-up of historically contaminated federal sites in Nevada (e.g, Nevada Test Site, Nellis Air Force Base and Range Complex, Hawthorne Ammunition Depot, Fallon Naval Air Station, etc.). The bureau is also responsible for the permitting and regulatory compliance of active water pollution control and waste management operations on DOE facilities.

OBJECTIVE:

Work with federal defense and energy agencies to develop acceptable planning schedules for the remediation of contaminated sites on federal facilities in Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau has continued to implement the terms of Consent Agreements with federal defense and energy agencies for corrective action and waste management activities conducted on the Nevada Test Site and on the identified DOD installations.

OBJECTIVE:

Work with federal agencies to expedite clean-up of contaminated sites to allow potential re-use of sites and facilities for both defense and non-defense purposes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Approximately 3,200 contaminated sites have been identified for assessment and remediation at the above-mentioned federal facilities. Over 1,270 of these sites have been formally approved by the division for closure.

OBJECTIVE:

Work with the DOE and other interested states on proposed modifications to the Atomic Energy Act.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Under a federal grant agreement, the bureau has entered into a formal process of reviewing low level radioactive waste management and disposal practices at the Nevada Test Site. This is the first formal agreement of its kind in the United States.

BUREAU OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

PURPOSE:

The bureau oversees remediation and corrective actions related to the cleanup of releases of hazardous and regulated chemicals using a multi-media (air, water, soil, and ecological resources) approach. In addition, the bureau administers a federal "superfund" grant and certifies environmental consultants to ensure that competent individuals are providing services and information to the businesses and citizens of the state for environmental cleanups.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to work with the EPA to integrate the federal superfund activities with State Remedial Action activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Since the 1992 inception of a formalized remedial action program, approximately 1,198 non-UST sites have been investigated and cleaned up to state requirements. These cases involved petroleum products, heavy metals, organic compounds, pesticides, and PCB's. Approximately 225 cases are open and active at any given time.
- ❑ Remediation efforts continue in Washoe County to investigate the extent of ground water contamination by cleaning solvents in downtown Reno. Monitoring activities are on-going.
- ❑ A fluids management plan is being implemented at the former Anaconda mine site in Yerington to protect the Walker River and adjacent lands.
- ❑ Cleanup activities at the Rio Tinto mine in northern Elko County are continuing.
- ❑ Major cleanup efforts at the BMI industrial complex in Henderson are on-going to remediate contamination and turn the site into a master planned community.

OBJECTIVE:

Coordinate Petroleum Cleanup Fund actions with the Underground Storage Tank program for the enforcement of tank rules and requirements, and the development of policy and operational procedures.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ In FY 2001, the bureau opened 41 new Petroleum Fund cases, closed 42 cases, and disbursed approximately \$6.07 million in Petroleum Fund monies.
- ❑ In FY 2000, 60 new cases were opened, 3 were closed, and \$6.04 million dollars were disbursed.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue certification of environmental consultants by improving testing and establishing reciprocity with other states.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The bureau currently certifies 642 individuals providing environmental remediation services in the Consultant Certification program.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to implement and improve benefit criteria used in determining the cost of cleaning up pollution.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The State of Nevada has initiated Brownfields, a land-recycling program, to redevelop undesirable properties and revitalize communities. (The term “brownfields” is used to describe abandoned, idled, or underused industrial or commercial properties taken out of productive use because of real or perceived risks from environmental contamination.)
- ❑ The Former Fire Training Academy in Stead, owned by UNR, has elected to undergo cleanup via the Voluntary Cleanup Program authorized by the 1999 legislature.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The bureau, in coordination with other bureaus in the division, has provided the resources to conduct environmental data collection to support the ongoing effort to identify the source problem of the Fallon child leukemia outbreak. The project was coordinated by the Administrator’s Office, tapping expertise throughout the division.

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE:

The bureau plans, regulates, and permits activities to ensure environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous waste. The bureau through the division is authorized to implement Subtitle C and D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The bureau also enforces the state’s Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) to protect the public health and safety, and the environment from the hazards of accidental releases of highly hazardous chemicals.

OBJECTIVE:

Reduce generation of solid and hazardous waste in Nevada by encouraging waste reduction, recycling, and product substitution

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Nevada currently diverts approximately 11% of the roughly three million tons disposed in landfills each year. The state goal is to divert 25% of the waste stream going to landfills.
- ❑ Efforts are underway to increase promotion of recycling in the Clark County area particularly, given the lagging recycling rate.

OBJECTIVE:

Prevent uncontrolled release of hazardous waste to the environment through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ There are roughly 2,000 generators of hazardous waste in Nevada, about 50 transporters, and six permitted facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. Of the generators inspected, the bureau has achieved a 95% compliance rate.
- ❑ Permitted facilities which are inspected quarterly were found to be in substantial compliance in FY 2001.

OBJECTIVE:

Prevent release of pollutants or contaminants from solid waste disposal facilities through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

A study of potential ground water impacts from closed landfill sites was initiated. Preliminary results suggest that closed, small, rural landfill sites do not represent a significant threat to ground water quality.

OBJECTIVE:

Reduce the risk of catastrophic release of highly hazardous chemicals through technical review of facility risk assessments, monitoring of compliance with hazard abatement plans and reporting requirements, and enforcement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The bureau's CAPP was expanded as a result of legislation passed in 1999 to apply to facilities that manufacture explosives for sale and to include a permitting requirement for new facilities. Substantial regulations to implement these new responsibilities have been adopted in the past biennium.
- ❑ Program staff continues to conduct inspections at the 46 registered facilities and are actively involved with local agencies to review applications for new facilities.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PURPOSE:

The commission adopts environmental rules, regulations, and plans authorized by statute to protect the environment and public health and welfare. The commission also acts as the appeal body to actions of the division. The commission also acts upon variances to regulatory requirements.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The commission is an 11-member board composed of citizens and agency administrators. The two person staff and support for the Secretariat are provided by the division.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.136, 278, 444, 444A, 445A, 445B, 445C, 459, 486A, 519A, 590, and 618
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	0 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775. 687.4670
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	http://www.ndep.state.nv.us/

OBJECTIVE:

Process regulatory petitions in a timely and efficient manner.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The State Environmental Commission adopted 21 permanent regulatory petitions in calendar year 2000 through 2001.
- ❑ As a result of the bankruptcy of mining operations, the commission acted to clarify criteria for mining sureties and to establish a surety readiness trust fund to deal with fluid management at bankrupt mines.
- ❑ The commission also adopted regulations establishing a certification program for the voluntary clean up residential and commercial properties, a program to establish recycling in public buildings and a fundamental overhaul of the water quality laboratory certification program.
- ❑ The commission continued to adopt rules refining the air pollution control permitting program and the water pollution control program. The commission reformed the air quality operating permit program by adding Class III permits for small stationary sources. In the area of water pollution control the commission adopted regulations expanding the underground injection control program.
- ❑ The commission also allowed low emission vehicles into the alternative fueled fleet program, and provided for contingency measures for the vehicle emission control program regarding onboard diagnostic technology.
- ❑ The commission made technical revisions to the water quality standards and moved forward a major regulatory package relating to standards for the Walker River and new water quality standards for Walker Lake. The original petition was denied by the Legislative Commission; however, the commission later adopted separate petitions on the Walker Lake and River that were less controversial.
- ❑ The Chemical Accident Prevention Program was expanded to include explosives manufacturers.
- ❑ A minor regulation relating the definition of a water pollution diffuse source was adopted. This regulation dissolved the ongoing conflict between the Elko County and the state regarding the complex issues that arose out of the dispute on the Jarbidge River.

STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS (PETROLEUM FUND)***PURPOSE:***

The State Petroleum Fund is designed to provide financial responsibility for federally regulated underground storage tanks. Coverage is also provided for non-commercial heating oil tanks and certain non-regulated tanks. The fund provides reimbursements for corrective action costs associated with petroleum product releases.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The board is composed of seven members. The six person staff is provided by the division.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 590.700 to 590.920
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	0 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4670
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.ndep.state.nv.us

OBJECTIVE:

Continually review fund procedures to make processing of applications more efficient.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- In FY 2000, 60 new Petroleum Fund cases were opened, 3 cases were closed, and approximately \$6.04 million in Petroleum Fund monies were disbursed.
- In FY 2001, 41 new Petroleum Fund cases were opened, 42 cases were closed, and approximately \$6.07 million in Petroleum Fund monies were disbursed.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Steve Robinson, State Forester

PURPOSE:

The division administers, coordinates, and manages all forestry, nursery, endangered plant species, and watershed resource activities on certain public and private lands. The division provides for fire protection of structural and natural resources through fire suppression and prevention programs and provides other emergency services as required.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

State Office, three Regional Offices, ten Conservation Camps, two Interagency Dispatch Centers, and two Plant Material Nurseries.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232, 120, 472, 473, 527, and 528
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	264 FTE/Seasonals 2002
TELEPHONE:	775.684.2500
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/forestry

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The Division enhances its management of forest resources, watersheds, and rangelands on certain public and private lands. The harvesting of timber, Christmas Trees, Cacti and Yucca are monitored to ensure compliance with state laws and the Forest Practices Act. Permits are issued for the thinning of overstocked timber and the reduction of the threat of wildfire. Technical assistance is provided to landowners to help them develop plans for how to best manage their natural resources. Protection of endangered plant species is conducted in coordination with numerous federal, state and local entities. The Seedbank Program is also responsible for the

rehabilitation of wildfire and other natural caused damaged lands, through planting, seeding, or other methods.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to improve the health and vigor of Nevada's watersheds and diverse ecosystems through increased technical assistance to landowners and land managers, developing partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector, enforcing state laws and regulations, promoting scientifically based conservation and best management practices, and educating the public on "land stewardship ethics".

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The Division has increased technical assistance to private landowners, developed partnerships with other agencies and promoted sound conservation practices. National Fire Plan dollars are assisting the Division in accomplishing on the ground treatments.
- ❑ Completed a statewide Insect and Disease survey in conjunction with the US Forest Service to identify hot spots both along the Sierra Front and in Pinyon/Juniper woodlands of the White Pine/Lincoln County area. The Division continues to provide training on the identification of forest and woodland insects and diseases and their control.
- ❑ Continued participation in the Conservation Agreement for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area through prescribed wildfire planning; native seed collection, storage and propagation; and the development of plans for disturbed site restoration activities.

OBJECTIVE:

Support non-industrial private forest landowners in efforts to actively manage their multiple resources with concern for environmental, economic, and social benefits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continued participation in the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan to protect "critically endangered" flora in Clark County.
- ❑ Continue to participate in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program with other DCNR agencies to address the natural resource issues of the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- ❑ Developed and adopted an amendment to the Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 527 for the Division's Critically Endangered Native Flora program (NRS 527.260-527.300).

OBJECTIVE:

Actively protecting, enhancing and managing the natural resources of the State through education, technical transfer, and revegetation of wildfire damaged lands.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is providing direct technical assistance to private landowners to develop and implement their Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans (LFSP). NDF's website provides information to the public on the FSP as well as numerous other programs. NDF employees provided service to 486 individuals over the last eighteen months.

- The Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), is treating forest health and fuels problems on the community and watershed scale in several areas throughout the state. In 2001 3,626 acres were planned through the SIP program. The projection for the year 2002 is well over 3000 acres.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide scientifically based conservation and environmental education programs utilizing Nevada's natural resources and their management as educational opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Conducted and supported several conservation education workshops and seminars to further understanding of natural resource management throughout the State.

OBJECTIVE:

Improve the environment of our cities and communities by increasing the planting of trees and improving the care and maintenance of existing trees. Promote public awareness about the important role trees and shrubs play in the quality of life for all Nevadan's.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical and financial assistance to communities in forest health assessment, planning, tree care awareness promotion, and community tree board establishment. Since 1991, the U&CF Grant Program has awarded over \$531,231 to 66 Nevada communities and organizations for 172 projects. Projects range from tree species demonstration projects and tree planting on public properties, workshops, public service education, to the purchase of library books, and elementary school outdoor classrooms.
- U&CF sponsors the National Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th graders; and the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Program. Six of Nevada's 18 incorporated cities and Nellis AFB have been awarded Tree City USA status.

FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The Nevada Division of Forestry Fire Protection Program exists for the protection and preservation of the life and property of the citizens of Nevada, and the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the State.

OBJECTIVE:

Lower community risk to wildland fire through Community Fire Planning and identified strategies for fuels mitigation, local fire protection capacity and public education.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Review and Update the statewide wildland fire hazard mitigation plan to include the goals outlined within the "Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to

Communities and the Environment” a 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy by the Western Governors Association.

- ❑ Continued to provide support to rural fire departments, through available grant funding, equipment, supplies and training.
- ❑ Continued collaborative efforts with the Western State Fire Managers through the Western State Foresters for wildland fire management initiatives.

OBJECTIVE:

Improved participation in Federal Excess Property Program equipment to be acquired and converted for fire fighting duty.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Continued to provide, cost-share grants and technical assistance for rural fire departments to assist with organizing, equipping and training rural fire fighting forces.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to work with counties and local government to initiate new or update existing cooperative fire protection agreements.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continued participation in the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association and various working subcommittees, i.e. Nevada State Fire Mutual Aid Plan.
- ❑ Continued to participate in regional (multi-state) interagency wildland fire suppression planning, training, and fire prevention committees.

OBJECTIVE:

Complete a statewide NDF fire protection assessment with recommendations for implementation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Continued fire protection assessments at the county and community levels. Community fire plans are identifying the strategies necessary to lower community risk to wildfire.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to support interagency and public collaboration through participation with the Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators, Nevada Fire Safe Council and Nevada Fire Board.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continued participation and providing funding for the Nevada Fire Safe Council to develop wildland fire hazard mitigation projects based on local citizen plan development.
- ❑ Continued delivery of NDF's OSHA-approved Wildland Fire Hazard Awareness training for news media organization representatives. Sought and obtained certification from the Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) committee for NDF's Wildland Fire Hazard Awareness training for peace officers involved in wildland fire incident security, traffic control, evacuations and related activities.

FORESTRY NURSERY AND SEEDBANK PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The Forest Nursery Program propagates, maintains, and distributes healthy, acclimatized plant materials (e.g. trees, shrubs, seed, etc.) for conservation, reclamation and restoration purposes. Plant materials are sold and distributed to qualified agencies and private landowners throughout the State. The statewide Seedbank Program provides seed to private landowners, federal, state and local agencies as well as the general public to support fire rehabilitation, noxious weed control, erosion control on disturbed sites and related rehabilitation activities.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to provide quality, low cost, conservation plants and seed to support the diverse ecosystems on all lands within Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Forestry Nursery Program collects, propagates and distributes specialized native species that are not readily available through other private nurseries. Native grass seedlings and wetland plugs are grown for conservation planting projects throughout the state.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide a stable, cost effective enterprising program for use by all Nevadan's.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continue to improve facilities and equipment in both Nursery facilities including the construction of a new greenhouse at the Washoe Nursery.
- ❑ Converting to a new plastic "D" pot from the traditional milk cartons for seedlings to reduce the cull rates and to produce a higher quality plant. The "D" pots are also recyclable.

OBJECTIVE:

Improve the States natural resources through restoration of wildfire damaged lands, noxious weed control, disturbed site reclamation and related restoration activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The statewide Seedbank Program was initiated for long-term rehabilitation of wildfire damaged lands in Nevada. Division personnel have assisted in the formation of the Nevada Native Seed Working Group to develop native seed production with Nevada's agricultural producers. Over the last two years approximately 13,000 pounds of inventory has been carried with an average of 22,000 pounds sold each year.

CONSERVATION CAMP PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The Division of Forestry in conjunction with the Department of Corrections operates the Conservation Camp Program, which provides the training and use of prison inmates assigned to such camps. There are ten conservation camps statewide that provide inmate crews and labor to

complete projects in forestry management, timber stand improvement, range management improvements, wildlife habitat improvements, watershed protection projects, and recreational developments. Crews maintain (state parks & federal agencies), state and federal highway's and improvements, wildfire rehabilitation, mining rehabilitation, a wide variety of community projects and provides a well trained wildfire suppression hand-crew force statewide.

OBJECTIVE:

Increase camp project revenues through federal, state and private sector opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Increased the camps project revenues to approximately \$1,900,000.00 annually.
- ❑ Improve work-related communications and coordination including long-range planning with the Department of Corrections and the Division of Forestry.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide wildland fire suppression services through well trained and equipped fire crews, which can support state, county, and federal wildland fire agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continue to provide state, federal and local fire agencies with qualified wildfire hand-crews for vegetation management, hazard fuels reduction and wildland fire suppression activities.
- ❑ Continue to provide an inmate helitak program at the Minden Air Operations Center using excess property Army Huey Helicopters to support statewide wildland fire emergencies.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide the necessary training and equipment to Crew Supervisors and inmates to enable them to accomplish their work related assignments in a safe and more efficient manner.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Continue to provide a low cost labor force and technical expertise to keep Nevada's highway system clean, right of way fences maintained and drainage culverts functioning.
- ❑ Computerized camp reporting and coordination with the Nevada Department of Corrections in camp daily reporting and payroll systems.
- ❑ Increased the work force to meet expanding demands in our statewide Las Vegas and Washoe Valley plant material nurseries.

PUBLICATIONS:

- ❑ Trees for Conservation, A Seedling Buyers Guide for Utah and Nevada
- ❑ Trees and Shrub Planting Handbook, A Guide for Conservation Plantings in Utah and Nevada
- ❑ Nevada's Stewardship Incentive Program, SIP Partnerships Can Benefit Nevada Landowners
- ❑ Wildfire Protection, A Guide to Building and Living Fire Safe in the Wildlands

- ❑ The Tahoe Landscape, A Special Issue on Forest Health, 1994
- ❑ Keeping Your Forest Trees Healthy, A Landowners Guide for the Mt. Charleston Area
- ❑ Nevada Big Tree Program
- ❑ PLT in Nevada Video
- ❑ A Citizen's Guide to Fire Hazard Reduction and removal of trees on public and Private Land in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Forest Stewardship Program Funding)
- ❑ Pinyon Juniper Insect & Disease Best Management Practices and Identification

NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Terry Crawforth, Administrator

PURPOSE:

The mission of the division is to preserve, protect, manage, enhance, and restore wildlife and its habitat within the state for aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits. The division is also charged with promoting safety for persons and property in the operation of boats on the waters of the state.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division consists of seven bureaus responsible for administration, game management, fisheries management, law enforcement, conservation education, habitat, and wildlife diversity. Resource bureau chiefs report to the Deputy Administrator, who is directly responsible to the Administrator. The Administrative Bureau Chief reports directly to the Administrator. Bureaus are responsible for both program and operational aspects of their specific disciplines statewide.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 488, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	221 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.688.1500
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org/

OBJECTIVE:

Formally implement the Comprehensive Management System beginning July 1, 1998.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Comprehensive Management System was implemented for FY 2000 beginning on July 1, 1999. *The Division of Wildlife Comprehensive Strategic Plan* focuses on eight product areas: Funding; Information Delivery; Wildlife Population Management; Habitat Management; Protection and Enhancement; Consultation; Compliance and Enforcement and Public Service and Documents. A complete listing of the goals, objectives and strategies in each of these product areas is available in the Strategic Planning section of the division web site at (<http://www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org/>). The division planning process called for the development of bureau specific program plans, which was accomplished near the end of this reporting period.

OBJECTIVE:

Define and Promote a Capital Improvements Program based on Division needs and priorities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

A capital improvements plan was established, and the Winnemucca facility was upgraded, the Ely Office and Las Vegas warehouse facilities were constructed, the Reno dispatch center was completed, the Kietzke Lane Office to house Business Management and Administrative Services was established, and the Elko Office is nearing construction.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

In January 2001, the division performed a mid-term evaluation of the progress made to date to fulfill the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan. The mid-term evaluation has, after careful review by the Agency Management Team, now become the basis of division direction to fulfill the purpose of the strategic plan. In 2003, the division will embark on a revision of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

- ▣ *AB 291* - Established a predator management program within the Division of Wildlife through legislative definition and establishment of a tag fee dedicated to the program.
- ▣ *AB 199* - Increased the cost of trout stamps to allow for the proposed refurbishment of the Nevada Fish Hatchery System.

PUBLICATIONS:

Western, Eastern, and Southern Region Fishable Waters Maps	Be Bear Aware brochure
Big Game Tag Application regulation brochure	Nevada Boat Act
Private Lands Conservation Information Sheets	<i>Nevada Hunt Book</i>
Upland Game regulation brochure	Wild Nevada
Migratory Bird regulation brochure	Living with Mountain Lions brochure
Furbearer regulation brochure	Free Fishing Day poster
Fishing regulation brochure	<i>Wildside</i> newsletter
Mason Valley WMA brochure	<i>Nevada Wildlife Almanac</i>
Kirch WMA brochure	<i>Nevada Wildlife Almanac</i>

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PURPOSE:

The bureau is responsible for the business affairs of the division; management of the customer service programs that include licensing, boat titling and registration, application hunts; the fiscal, accounting, grants management, human resources functions; engineering services; networking services; and statewide building maintenance.

OBJECTIVE:

Maintain the confidence and trust of the Division fiscal system by the agency and the public.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Efforts have continued to revise, refine, and update existing operating procedures in both the business and licensing functions of the division.
- ❑ The purchase of new hardware and software for both functions has been partially accomplished during the biennium. Both the business and license offices are working towards the implementation of a new statewide licensing system.
- ❑ Staff assignments have been reviewed and reorganized for enhanced internal controls, the most efficient and effective implementation of the state's new Integrated Financial System (IFS), and separation of duties.
- ❑ Division supervisors have been informed and trained in fiscal processes and accounting through annual in-service training since December 2000.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Continue to refine existing and develop new processes to accomplish the various business and licensing functions of the division.
- ❑ Use computer technology to enhance the business and licensing processes (including enhanced fiscal and federal aid management) and provide better levels of service to our customers.
- ❑ Evaluate staff assignments to promote and provide sound business practices with a greater emphasis on the customer service programs.
- ❑ Enhancement of the division's training and human resources programs to better serve the division's employees, thereby continuously improving and enhancing our services to the public.
- ❑ Implementation of the division's engineering services program by systematic evaluation and maintenance of division facilities, providing the most safe and productive work environment for the division's employees.

GAME BUREAU

PURPOSE:

The bureau conducts avian and terrestrial game wildlife surveys, inventory, and research, and administers and implements programs to maintain and restore avian and terrestrial game wildlife species in Nevada. The bureau also administers wildlife depredation, damage compensation, elk incentive, and predator management programs. The bureau is the liaison between the division and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Air Operations.

OBJECTIVE:

Develop and implement a comprehensive big game management program incorporating species management plans, herd management plans, big game release plans, research needs, habitat management, survey and inventory, harvest strategies, limiting factors, and public review process.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Species management plans have been written for mountain lion, elk, and bighorn sheep.
- ❑ Big game release plans have been prepared and implemented.

OBJECTIVE:

The elimination and preclusion of Nevada's wildlife from threatened or endangered status.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Game Bureau has taken the lead in support of the Sage Grouse Local Area Planning Effort, which resulted from work completed by the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team to establish a recovery strategy for sage grouse in Nevada. Six local area planning teams made up of interested constituents have been initiated statewide that are supported by Division biologists and administrative staff.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ The avian and terrestrial wildlife programs, formerly referred to as "nongame programs," were transferred to the new Wildlife Diversity Bureau within FY02.
- ❑ The bureau was assigned responsibility for the new predator management program that was created as a result of legislation approved by the 2001 Nevada State Legislature.

PUBLICATIONS:

- ❑ Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy
- ❑ Predator Management Plan for FY2002
- ❑ 2000-2001 Big Game Status Report
- ❑ Game Harvest Statistics
- ❑ 2001 Upland Game, Migratory Game Bird, and Furbearing Mammal Status
- ❑ Bighorn Sheep Species Management Plan

FISHERIES BUREAU

PURPOSE:

The bureau administers management programs for fisheries throughout Nevada designed to provide the state's angling public with recreational fishing opportunity and to conserve and protect our native fish, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans. The bureau also conducts programs to insure the perpetuation of the native fish, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans of the state, including many threatened and endangered species.

OBJECTIVE:

Hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities within the biological potential of wildlife populations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Recovery implementation teams were formed to address several listed species in the Southern Region.
- ❑ Conservation Agreements are near completion for Columbia Spotted Frog populations in north eastern and central Nevada.
- ❑ Progress has been made in the conservation of Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Upper Humboldt and Quinn River/Black Rock Desert Distinct Population Segments.

- ❑ An extensive array of fisheries and species management plans have been developed after significant public involvement to guide fisheries biologists in the maintenance and development of fishing opportunities throughout the state.
- ❑ The bureau's fish culture program produced and stocked 2.1 million fish into the state's waters, supporting 1.63 million angler use days.
- ❑ The \$21.7 million hatchery refurbishment project, a seven-year program to refurbish the state's three hatcheries and one rearing station, was initiated.
- ❑ Conservation planning efforts for several of the state's native fish, amphibian, mollusks, and crustaceans were initiated.

OBJECTIVE:

Public is informed of outdoor recreational opportunities available.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Three fishable waters maps, one for each region of the state, were completed to provide additional fishing information to the angling public.
- ❑ Fishable Waters Information Sheets were developed and distributed to regional offices for distribution to the public.

OBJECTIVE:

Increased public access to wildlife resources and boating opportunity.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Sport Fish Restoration funds were directed to the development and maintenance of boating access facilities throughout the state. Other projects were completed at Lake Mead and a multi-year project was initiated at Topaz Lake.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ To make fishing in Nevada more readily available to the state's anglers through greater availability, easier access, and public information.
- ❑ To continue the implementation of the Hatchery Refurbishment Project.
- ❑ To preclude the listing of Nevada's native fish, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, through active management programs. To work towards the down or de-listing of those species already listed. To be proactive rather than reactive in our approach to the management of our native species.
- ❑ To strengthen the Fisheries Bureau Infrastructure, through implementation of the Fisheries Bureau Program Plan.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

PURPOSE:

The bureau is responsible for protecting Nevada's wildlife resources and ensuring the safety of the boating public. During the biennium, these efforts resulted in officers contacting approximately 45,122 sportsmen and 53,600 members of the boating public. Nearly 5,000 citations were issued and 7,300 warnings given to members of the public. Several hundred

wildlife and boating safety events were investigated, which included: Operation Game Thief reports, boat accidents, stolen boat practicing incident, and compliance violation.

OBJECTIVE:

Promote law enforcement compliance through education and information programs at boat shows, county fairs, indoctrinations, boat ramp inspections, and reward incentives.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Boat ramp inspections are being conducted, law enforcement staff attends recreational boating shows, and a new life jacket incentive program has proven successful at promoting compliance.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide regulations to the public in a user-friendly format including brochures and electronic media.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ All regulation brochures have been revised to be more user-friendly and visually appealing.
- ❑ All regulation materials and permits are readily available from the division website.
- ❑ An Operation Game Thief section of the division website to promote compliance was established in 2001.

OBJECTIVE:

Complete the Special License and Permit manual (SLAP) review.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Special License and Permit manual (SLAP) review was completed and all functions of the program were transferred to the License Office in spring 2002.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Write, implement, and evaluate a law enforcement program plan providing clear direction for future actions.
- ❑ The bureau will develop, implement, and evaluate effective private land wildlife and access programs that include effective public access, incentive programs, and landowner recognition systems.
- ❑ The bureau will develop and implement an urban nuisance program in affected areas of the state.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION BUREAU

PURPOSE:

The bureau is responsible for informing and educating the public about wildlife conservation in the state. The bureau provides courses in hunter and angler education, training in environmental and outdoor education, and public access to agency programs through its volunteer program. In addition, the bureau provides public affairs information and is responsible for developing and producing the division's hunting and fishing regulation brochures and other informational and

educational materials printed for public distribution. Finally, the bureau is responsible for the division's web site.

OBJECTIVE:

Ensuring the public is informed of outdoor recreational opportunities available as well as skills and abilities to most effectively enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Conservation Educator position was staffed in the northeastern third of the state to support the division's programs in public affairs, wildlife information, and hunter and aquatic education.
- ❑ The division web site was expanded and web site visits averaged 8,000 to 10,000 "hits" per day. Online interactive tag applications were initiated with 65,000 online applications the first year.
- ❑ Issued 190 news releases statewide, which were published 2,300 times; produced 520 radio programs which aired a minimum of 3,380 times on nine radio stations; produced and aired 52 weekly television news segments on northern Nevada's largest television station.
- ❑ 215 volunteer hunter education instructors trained approximately 7,000 students during the period, and about 40 volunteer angler education instructors offered 20 fishing clinics statewide to 7,500 participants.
- ❑ A Trout in the Classroom Program, complete with curriculum, was initiated in 80 classrooms statewide and introduced aquatic education to 6,700 elementary school students. Volunteer Wildlife Educators donated nearly 10,000 hours in docent time and volunteer labor to the program. Another 3,000 students received wildlife education training through on-site and classroom visits.
- ❑ The division's new statewide volunteer program recruited nearly 1,000 individuals as active participants in a variety of division projects including seed collection, planting of burned areas, fish stocking and salvage, sage grouse lek surveys, and bighorn sheep and chukar capture and relocation efforts. These volunteer efforts were valued at over \$500,000 in time and mileage that applied as in-kind match to federal grants.
- ❑ Two new Wildlife Management Area brochures were developed and printed in the biennium, and a targeted mailing on black bears was directed to persons living in black bear habitat. A total of 650,000 regulation brochures were printed and distributed and more than 400,000 regulations were downloaded from the division web site.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Develop an interactive Hunter Education Training Course available on the Internet.
- ❑ Upgrade and develop division informational kiosks at hatcheries and on state wildlife management areas statewide.
- ❑ Develop and implement a non-profit foundation to assist in the funding of the volunteer program.
- ❑ Develop division-wide marketing program with focus on meeting informational needs of our public.

HABITAT BUREAU

PURPOSE:

The bureau is responsible for reviewing, assessing, and providing comments on all proposed land and water uses, providing fish and wildlife data to all entities for planning and decision-making purposes. The bureau is also responsible for planning, operating, and maintenance of 126,000 acres of state-owned lands and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) also falls within the purview of the bureau. The bureau is also responsible for administering the water development, rangeland, and wildfire rehabilitation efforts for the division. Additionally, the bureau has regulatory responsibility for Industrial Artificial Pond permitting (primarily the nearly 100 Nevada gold mining operations) statewide.

OBJECTIVE:

Wildlife habitats that are productive and in good ecological condition

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Re-seeded more than 35,000 acres of wildfire-ravaged wildlife habitats using donated funds and wildlife restoration dollars.
- ❑ Installed 61 new water developments (guzzlers) and repaired/upgraded another 89 guzzlers.
- ❑ Completed two Wildlife Management Area management plans.
- ❑ Continued to acquire and improve important wildlife habitats through the use of remaining Park and Wildlife Bond Bill funds.
- ❑ Purchased an additional 45 acre-feet of water rights from willing sellers for the Lahontan Valley wetlands.
- ❑ Completed a significant wetlands expansion project at the Overton WMA.
- ❑ Secured a \$760,000 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for wetlands and riparian restoration and development at the Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area near Ely with the assistance of private partners.

OBJECTIVE

Open, honest and productive communication with partners in wildlife management ultimately resulting in management, protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Provided responses for requests for fish and wildlife data and project proposals with the potential to impact fish and wildlife resources. (In excess of 1,500 documents are reviewed annually.)

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Preserve and protect quality habitats and enhance deficient habitats by mapping habitat types and wildlife distribution with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, by completing long-range plans for all WMAs, and by acquiring wildlife habitat and water rights from willing sellers through the Park and Wildlife Bond Bill funds and other funding sources.

- ❑ Continue to work with land management agencies to protect and enhance wildlife habitat damaged by wildfires or ineffective management with a goal of enhancing or rehabilitating a minimum of 5,000 acres per year.
- ❑ Communicate effectively with partners in wildlife management, resulting in management, protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.
- ❑ Continue to work with land management agencies and the private sector to enhance water deficient wildlife habitats across the state.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY BUREAU

PURPOSE:

This new bureau is responsible for managing sensitive species and those wildlife resources that are not subject to hunting and angling activity.

OBJECTIVE:

A public appreciation and enjoyment of nonconsumptive uses of Nevada's wildlife species.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Established a new Wildlife Diversity Bureau which will be responsible for inventory and management of the state's nongame wildlife species that will develop and implement a wildlife diversity program that enhances the diversity of non-game species. This new effort will enhance the scope and effectiveness of the division's conservation efforts by developing a collaborative and cooperative network among the various division programs (game, non-game, sport fish, endemic fish, habitat, conservation education, and law enforcement).

OBJECTIVE:

The public is more responsive to the agency mission through funding support.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Federal legislation has been monitored during the 107th Congress, and where appropriate, constituent support has been encouraged for the passage of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).
- ❑ The division participated in a meeting of western states' wildlife and park agencies to develop strategies to support CARA legislation.
- ❑ The division was also represented at a national meeting of Wildlife Diversity program coordinators to discuss planning for implementation of Wildlife Diversity within state agencies; coordinating with federal agencies regarding grant administration; and discussing strategies for modifying the culture of agencies that have traditionally not placed co-equal emphasis on consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife resources.
- ❑ The division was represented at a gathering of conservation organizations and state wildlife division representatives to lobby in support of CARA in Washington D.C. Nevada's congressional delegation was contacted to explain the benefits of CARA passage.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- To develop strategies for enhancement and stability of funding in order to provide sustainability for science-based wildlife and habitat management programs in wildlife diversity.
- Identify the state's non-game species, their distribution, habitats, and how best to manage those systems.

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

Wayne Perock, Administrator

PURPOSE:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the division shall acquire, protect, develop, and interpret a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of the people of the State of Nevada and that such areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division is comprised of four sections: Administration, Accounting and Personnel, Park Operations and Maintenance, and Planning & Development. The Administration Section provides administrative support to the Administrator and his staff. The Accounting and Personnel Section provides services to the field staff in accounting and personnel issues. The Operations and Maintenance Section provides the field services to manage and maintain the 24 parks in the five regions of the state park system. The Park Planning and Development Section provides acquisition, design, construction management, and technical support services for the state park system. Staff also provides technical assistance to field personnel, administers grants to other government entities, and reviews activities, which affect the park system.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.135, 384, and 407
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	130 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4384
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/stparks

KEY OBJECTIVES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

GOAL:

To continue to manage, protect, operate, and maintain existing and future units of the Nevada State Park System.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed Berlin Mill structural stabilization and roof replacement project (1/00); Valley of Fire State Park major flood repairs (3/00); Sand Harbor boat launch area rehab/repairs including boat dock replacements, piling replacements, wave suppressor repairs, fee booth repairs and parking lot resurfacing (6/00); structural stabilization/roof repairs on five historic buildings at Spring Mountain Ranch (7/00); by-pass road around Ward

Charcoal Ovens to protect from vibratory damage (9/00); Phase 1A water system rehabilitation at Lahontan-Churchill Beach (5/00) and Phase 1B water system repairs (12/00); Lahontan Beach #7 Campground waterfront erosion control project (1/01); Floyd Lamb State Park walkway repairs/replacement (12/00); repaired/relocated undermined waterfront picnic ramada at Big Bend SRA (5/01); and completed Horsethief Campground renovation at Spring Valley State Park (6/01).

- ❑ Engaged in litigation regarding the acquisition of the Dangberg Ranch in Douglas County.
- ❑ Land trade at Spring Valley State Park, Lincoln County completed.
- ❑ High visitor satisfaction ratings (94%) received statewide on visitor surveys.

OBJECTIVE:

To acquire, plan for and develop a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Completed phase I SW shoreline access and boat ramp at South Fork SRA, including new vault restrooms, boat parking, ramp installation, picnic sites, and solar powered area lights (10/99); Phase 1B development of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, including partial re-creation of fort walls, construction of public restroom, maintenance shop building, shade ramadas, water feature, interpretive trail, and security fencing (2/00); constructed new campground restroom/shower building at Spring Valley State Park's Horsethief Gulch Campground (3/00); installed new vault restrooms at Lahontan-Silver Springs Beach (6/00) and at Marlette Lake in Lake Tahoe State Park (7/00); completed three miles of trail system at Carson River Ranches (7/00); completed Tahoe's
- ❑ Hidden Beach rehabilitation project, including trail/stair construction slope stabilization, etc. (10/00); completed Sand Harbor restroom repairs and remodels (3/01); completed Lahontan-Silver Springs SRA boat ramp and dock replacements (5/01); replaced upper portion of Wild Horse SRA boat ramp and installed new dock (5/01).
- ❑ The division continues to take advantage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, TEA-21 Transportation Enhancements, Bureau of Reclamation Title 28, N.D.F. Urban Forestry, Federal Recreation Trails and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Boating Access grants.

OBJECTIVE:

Continue to manage and interpret the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the State Park System.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❑ Secured a total of \$3.18 million in grants for state park projects during the 1999-2001 biennium.
- ❑ Developed proposed project descriptions and estimates (based on SCR #15 capital development/acquisition priorities) for state park projects
- ❑ The Tahoe Resource Team was initiated to manage the Tahoe Environmental Improvement program on state property within the Lake Tahoe Basin. A majority of

the projects involve correcting resource problems within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

- ❑ Park Interpreters have replaced ranger classifications when vacancies have occurred and when interpretation of park resources is a primary focus of management.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ The division will seek additional resources to better serve senior citizens.
- ❑ The division will identify additional revenue generating sources that will provide positive enhancements to park operations without negatively impacting park resources. Such sources include concessions, special use permits, and special events along with a concerted effort to establish a State Park Foundation (i.e., in compliance with SCR - 14 of the 1993 Legislature).
- ❑ The division will seek and analyze environmental and other documentation for any proposed actions, which may have an adverse impact on the division, managed lands, or programs.
- ❑ The division will work actively to support park planning within the state park system including maintaining an adequate planning and development staff for operations, travel, and equipment.
- ❑ The division will revise the State Park System Plan along with individual park master plans on a ten-year rotating cycle.
- ❑ The division will develop interpretive plans for each state park and increase integration of interpretive services within its normal operations and management.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

Revisions were made to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 407), which included revised rules, regulations, and fee schedule effective January 1, 2002.

NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Glenn Clemmer, Program Manager

PURPOSE:

The program maintains current databases on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, and sensitive species in the state. The program evaluates conservation priorities for species and their habitats, supplies information and technical advice to meet diverse conservation and planning needs and strives to help prevent costly species listings.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The program maintains an office in Carson City, administered by a Program Manager, 4 botanists, and one staff support position.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.090
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	6 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775. 687.4245
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/nvnhp/

KEY OBJECTIVES:

The program will continue to serve as the state's clearinghouse for data pertaining to sensitive species and vegetation communities, and will provide these data in a variety of formats for the purpose of avoiding potential conflicts with development projects and for setting priorities for conservation efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The program has expanded our sensitive species databases adding over 1,800 entries and now has 7,100 records for 644 sensitive species throughout the state. These data, integrated with similar heritage information throughout North America through the NatureServe network, confirm that Nevada is 3rd among all 50 states having the most imperiled species and 6th with the most endemic species. Through an evaluation process, the biennial scorecard ranking scheme, the program sets priorities for addressing conservation needs for our sensitive species and their habitats. Heritage data and ranks are widely used by state and federal agencies, and by a variety of local and regional planning teams; e.g., the Nevada Biodiversity Initiative, the Governor's Sage Grouse Planning Team, the Desert Conservation planning efforts in Clark County, BLM State and District offices, the Department of Defense, the Tahoe Yellowcress Conservation Working Group, and the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Transportation.

KEY LONG TERM OBJECTIVES:

In FY01 the program added a plant ecologist to the staff who is rapidly adding vegetation community documentation to the database system. Integrating the GAP analysis program with data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, this has produced a statewide vegetation map emphasizing potential sagebrush restoration areas and has begun defining rare plant assemblages in the state. The ecologist brings expertise in landsat satellite imagery analysis and has expanded out GIS coverage to include 167 independent layers.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

Following reviews at two annual rare plant workshops sponsored by the program, two plants were removed from the state's critically endangered list.

PUBLICATIONS:

Nevada Rare Plant Atlas

Additional titles and program updates are available on our website, <http://www.state.nv.us/nvnhp>

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS

Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator/State Land Registrar

PURPOSE:

The division provides land and land use planning services to the state. The division has four major program areas: holding title to the state's land and providing land services to state agencies and the general public; providing land use planning training and assistance to local governments; representing the state on federal land issues and developing state policies and plans for federal lands; and coordinating Nevada's Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. The division also administers other programs and provides staff assistance to the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division is organized into five sections: the state land office; the state land use planning agency; the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team; technical services; and clerical and fiscal services. The division is assisted by the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, which is comprised of one representative from each of the 17 counties.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 321-324, 445A.170
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	18.6 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4363 (Main Office) 775.687.4735 (Tahoe Office)
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/lands

KEY OBJECTIVES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OBJECTIVE:

Process all requests for services related to state lands as efficiently as possible, meeting time constraints and needs of the public and the state agency being served, including requests for acquisitions, disposals, leases, easements, certifications, and assignments.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

During the biennium over 870 transactions involving leases, easements, permits, and other authorizations on state lands were processed. The division program of preserving and protecting historic land records continued through the same period with hundreds of historic documents given permanent protection.

OBJECTIVE:

Maintain accurate and complete records for all state lands, protect historic land records and maps, make information about state lands, and state land records available to the public and other agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Data on state land transactions in the State Land Information System (SLIMS) has continued to be updated and verified, providing a dynamic tool in the management of state land.

OBJECTIVE:

Establish and maintain positive working relationships with all federal land management agencies to assure state and local government participation in federal land management actions. With local governments throughout the state, develop plans and policies for the federal lands that will be used to guide agency management decisions affecting federal lands.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Significant activities in the public land planning assistance program included: coordination of the state's *enlibra* program; state team leadership on planning for the Black Rock - High Rock Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area; participation on the Governor's sage grouse recovery team; state representation for land acquisitions funded from land sales under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act; continued updating of state public land policies; and providing staff services for the Advisory Board on Natural Resources.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide technical planning assistance to all local governments requesting agency assistance in land use planning. Convene the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council at least three times a year. Regularly publish information on land use planning for use by local governments. Conduct educational workshops on planning matters.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Technical planning assistance to local governments was provided to Humboldt, Lincoln, and Lander counties and to the cities of Wells, Winnemucca, and Carlin, at their request. The division has developed an extensive planning commissioner training program that has been well received.

OBJECTIVE:

Coordinate state implementation of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). Acquire and manage sensitive parcels in the Lake Tahoe basin, and promote the forest health on state parcels within the basin.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Tahoe Resource Team has funded and managed 26 environmental improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe basin using state bond money and 12 using revenues from the Tahoe license plate. The team has also managed state-acquired environmentally sensitive properties to protect the natural qualities present on such properties. The team coordinates Nevada's partnership in the multi-agency Tahoe EIP and ensures continued progress toward program goals.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

AB 9 of the 2001 Special Session of the Legislature provides for the placing on the November 2002 ballot a bond measure in the amount of \$200,000,000 for protection and preservation of natural resources. If passed by the electorate, the division will be responsible for the administration of a large part of the bond program.

AB 176 of the 2001 Session granted authority to the State Land Registrar to make grants and enter into agreements to carry out various programs in the Lake Tahoe basin. Local governments were also allowed to receive those grant monies.

**NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY GOVERNING BOARD**

Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Officer

PURPOSE:

The Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency implements provisions of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact relating to “structures housing gaming” (casinos) in the Tahoe basin. The agency establishes and maintains base data plans for all such structures, maintains chronological files of changes made, and reviews plans for changes in order to ensure compliance with the compact provisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Division of State Lands provides staff services to the agency governing board. The Administrator of the division serves as Executive Officer to the board and one planning position provides technical support. The board consists of seven members as follows: Douglas County Commissioner, Carson City Supervisor, Washoe County Commissioner, Secretary of State, Governor’s Appointee, Conservation and Natural Resources Department Director, and a member-at-large selected annually by the other six members.

KEY OBJECTIVE/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OBJECTIVE:

Assist the governing board of the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to implement the provisions of the Tahoe Compact relating to “structures housing gaming”.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The governing board met nine times reviewing matters regarding “structures housing gaming” and developing board policy relating to such structures. A major accomplishment by the board during the biennium was establishing policy that allows consideration of the reconfiguration of an existing structure, where there is no expansion of volume, and when a substantial benefit to the natural and aesthetic environment of the basin will result.

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pamela B. Wilcox, Acting Administrator

PURPOSE:

The division provides administrative support to the State Conservation Commission, which develops policy and regulations for Nevada's 28 locally elected conservation districts. Division staff implement commission programs and provide assistance to conservation districts. Districts provide services to individual landowners and coordinate with other public and private agencies for the conservation, protection, and orderly development of the state's natural resources.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division's chief executive officer is its acting administrator (who is designated as "acting" because this is also the administrator of the Division of State Lands and is not an authorized/funded FTE in the Division of Conservation Districts), who also serves as executive secretary to the State Conservation Commission.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 548
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	3 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.687.6977
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/conv01

KEY OBJECTIVES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OBJECTIVE:

Regulate the state's Conservation Districts to insure 90% or more are in "good standing".

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The commission continues its critically important program of providing grants to all conservation districts which are "in good standing." In 2001 all 28 districts received grants. The districts are matching and leveraging the \$5,000 provided by the state.

OBJECTIVE:

Train and assist the supervisors of the Conservation Districts to facilitate their ability to respond to individual landowners' and local resource needs with timely information and effective conservation plans and programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Division staff provide training for conservation districts in many areas, including conservation planning and district operations. A major focus of training is to build the capacity of local districts.

OBJECTIVE:

Facilitate commission meetings quarterly and implement the regulatory functions of the commission.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The State Conservation Commission has met quarterly and has performed the regulatory functions as required by NRS when necessary.

OBJECTIVE:

Administer the grant award program to assure all projects meet established regulations.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

With grant funds, conservation districts have developed a wide variety of conservation programs. More than half of the districts now have active programs for the control of invasive plant species (weeds). Most districts have educational programs for young people. Many districts are working to improve water quality and restore streams. The Conservation District of Southern Nevada has developed water conservation programs and educational programs relating to water quality for the residents of Clark County. The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District is implementing a Backyard Conservation Program for residents of the Tahoe basin, and is also active in assisting the state to implement its Tahoe EIP. The three conservation districts of the Carson River (Carson Valley, Dayton, and Lahontan Conservation Districts) all have strong programs of maintaining and restoring the river, in coordination with other public and private entities.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE:

Under the leadership of the commission, the division seeks ways to improve the capacities and increase the funds available to local conservation districts.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Hugh Ricci, Administrator/State Engineer

PURPOSE:

The division protects the health and safety of Nevada's citizens through the appropriation and adjudication of public water. Other responsibilities include the adjudication of claims of vested water rights; distribution of water in accordance with court decrees; review of water availability for new subdivisions and condominiums; review of the construction and operation of dams; appropriation of geothermal resources; licensing of well drillers and water right surveyors; review of flood control projects; maintenance of water resource data and records; and providing technical assistance to government boards, offices, and agencies.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Eight sections are responsible for the statewide administration of water right appropriations, dam safety, well drilling, water right related hearings, and water right adjudications. Included are a computer group and a mapping section that work to put all of the division's data into digital and

graphical media in order to better serve the public. The division has three primary offices located in Carson City, Las Vegas, and Elko and a small field office in Winnemucca.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	Title 48
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	62.5 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.6874380
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	http://www.ndwr.state.nv.us/

KEY OBJECTIVES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OBJECTIVE:

To hold hearings to gather further information regarding the water right applications for the Yucca Mountain Repository.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Hearings were held and the applications were subsequently denied on the grounds that the use of the water was not in the public's best interest.

OBJECTIVE:

To reduce the backlog of water right applications while keeping current with new applications.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Division continues to address this objective and is reducing the backlog as well as keeping current with new applications.

OBJECTIVE:

To continue to hold hearings, issue permits and take action on applications.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

During the biennium, 144 hearings were conducted, and 1,840 permits were issued. The division took action on another 549 applications resulting in total action on 2,389 applications. Of that total, 554 were part of the backlog.

OBJECTIVE:

To keep current with requests for title transfers.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The division has made strides in keeping current with requests for title transfers. During the biennium 2,705 title transfers were completed which required the review of 7,941 individual deeds.

OBJECTIVE:

Keeping the water rights database current and updating and adding to the website.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The division has made progress with this objective and there are currently 78,000 records containing 80 fields for each record on the water rights database. Also, the database for the 78,000 well logs was added to the website for access by the general public.

OBJECTIVE:

To complete the mapping of the Truckee River Orr Ditch Decree water rights.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The division is meeting its objective wherein 55 maps were produced and signed by the State Engineer and Federal Water Master during the biennium, leaving approximately 36 maps to complete the initial part of the mapping project.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ The division will continue to manage the state's water resources through monitoring existing uses, reallocating water to new uses, and ensuring that Nevada's growth can be based on a sustained yield. This includes monitoring and studying the effects of pumping the carbonate aquifer on existing rights. The division will also reduce the backlog of appropriation applications and change applications while expeditiously acting on applications as received.
- ❑ Through the adjudication process set out in NRS 533, the division will continue to attempt to quantify and determine water rights put to beneficial use prior to enactment of various statutes ("vested rights"), thereby ensuring that those water rights are recognized.
- ❑ The division will continue to protect the safety and health of Nevada citizens through the applicable statutes and regulations for dam safety, inspections and strict enforcement of channel clearance and flood control. Regulations will be promulgated to support and better explain the intent of the existing statutes and office policies. The goal is to ensure that dams in the state will be built safe and remain safe for the design life of the dam.
- ❑ The division will work to carry out the higher priority recommendations outlined in the State Water Plan and review the balance of the recommendations to see how they can best be implemented/accomplished in a timely manner. The division will continue to provide flood plain management assistance to the communities throughout Nevada.
- ❑ The division will continue to protect the health and safety of Nevada's citizens through the implementation of the well drilling laws, rules, and regulations to ensure that the water resources of the state will be available for future generations.
- ❑ The division will reduce the backlog of requests for changes of ownership of existing water rights filed before October 1995 and continue to process newly filed reports of conveyances in a timely manner.
- ❑ The division will continue to maintain, update, and improve the water rights database with the goal of providing Internet access to the general public.

PUBLICATIONS:

- ❑ Warm Springs Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- ❑ Carson Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- ❑ Las Vegas Valley Water Usage Reports
- ❑ Recharge Storage Accounts, Las Vegas Valley Water Basin
- ❑ Mason Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory

■ Smith Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The division has been challenged to meet growing demands by conversion of water rights from existing uses to new uses. The division has been active in administering AB380, which has reduced litigation concerning changes in the use of the Truckee River. Significant staff time has been allocated to negotiating the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) that will resolve disputes among Truckee River users. The Humboldt River Basin Study is providing the division with a better understanding of mine dewatering and the hydrology of the affected area.

Of the 2,744 water right applications received during the biennium, over 75% were change applications resulting in an increase of ownership changes. This number of applications is an increase of 21% over the previous two calendar year biennium and the number of change applications represents a 7% increase.

Some of the elements of the Division of Water Planning were moved into the Division of Water Resources during the reorganization in October 2000. The responsibility for maintaining water planning activities now rests with the State Engineer's Office and includes such activities as flood planning, emergency preparation and response.

COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

Catherine Barcomb, Administrator

PURPOSE:

The primary duties of the commission are to preserve viable herds of wild horses on public lands. The commission serves as an advocate for wild horses through participation with federal agencies thru participation in programs designed to encourage and promote the protection of wild horses and as a clearinghouse for information to the general public.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor. One member is a representative of an organization whose purpose is to protect wild horses and whose headquarters are in Nevada, one is an owner or manager of property used for ranching, and three are representatives of the general public who are not engaged in ranching or farming and who have not previously been engaged in efforts to protect wild horses.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 504.430-504.490
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	1 FTE/2002
TELEPHONE:	775.849.3625
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.state.nv.us/cnr/horse01.htm

KEY OBJECTIVES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A mandated Strategic Plan was presented to the Legislative Council Bureau during the 1999 Session. The “Plan of Goals, Strategies and Recommendations for the Preservation and Protection of the Wild Horses For the State of Nevada” (plan) is available on our website. We have been working with partners from the private sector, federal government, and state government to achieve the goals projected in the plan. We are reaching those goals.

ADDITIONAL KEY LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will advocate the preservation of wild horses through intergovernmental review and evaluate federal land management environmental and action documents.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The commission office reviewed over the past year and a half, approximately 600 land use planning documents from July 2000 to present.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will encourage the public to participate in all aspects of the wild horse program, protection of their habitat, and the public adoption of wild horses and burros.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Administrator and individual Commissioners participate in field tours, adoptions of both BLM and prison program horses, sponsor fundraisers for individual program needs, give lectures at schools and with private organizations, attendance, support and promotion at wild horse shows and field tour rides, attendance at private interest group meetings, partnership with the creation of the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation, design and development of the National Wild Horse and Burro Center, and public outreach through information sharing. All the above programs are designed to educate the public and encourage participation in habitat developments and program enhancement.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will encourage the protection and enhancement of wild horse habitat through establishing and maintaining appropriate management levels (AML) to preserve rangeland health.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The commission office provided review and consultation to approximately 600 land use planning documents to both BLM and the Forest Service. The responses were in support of responsible range management and establishment of AML.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will work to assist in reducing the level of conflict and open lines of communication between the various interest groups, state, and federal agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Commission works through public education, open forum commission meetings, field tours, individual meetings, public meetings, information sharing, and as a liaison between the various entities to insure consultation and coordination is maximized for reasonable decisions based on accurate information.

OBJECTIVE:

Through suggestions identified in the plan, the commission has assisted in establishing a National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation in joint partnership with the BLM for the enhancement of the bureau's adoption program. The commission will continue to work with the foundation for programs to enhance the BLM's adoption/education program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Foundation has been created through the partnership with the BLM and Commission. We continue to act in an advisory capacity as a working group forming by-laws, articles of incorporation, business and marketing plans, and promotions to enhance the wild horse adoption program.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will seek to enhance the adoption and holding program in coordination with the BLM's 4-year strategic plan through partnership with the Nevada Department of Corrections. The program would involve the holding, care, and training of BLM's horses through an inmate assisted program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The center has been built at the Stewart Conservation Camp in Carson City and can hold between 5-600 BLM wild horses and approximately 80 stray (Virginia Range Comstock horses). The Commission will seek ongoing partnerships for those programs.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will partner with the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) to assist in the fundraising efforts to build the Orphan Foal Rescue Center at the Silver Springs Correctional Center.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Commission, private interest groups and NDOC have held multiple fundraisers in addition to grant requests filed. We have currently raised over \$12,000 for the building of the barn and have written grant requests for the donation of a barn building.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will work with the BLM to seek to establish a Wild Horse and Burro Visitors Center in Nevada to promote tourism and the adoption program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The commission has been a working partner in the developmental stages of site identification, program development, architectural design, public scoping meetings, and planning. There are

over 30 working partners on this project including Nevada's congressional representatives, Department of Tourism, Economic Development, BLM, Lyon County, casino and business representatives, NDOC, Governors office, Lieutenant Governors Office, RSCVA, and various non-profit organizations to name a few.

OBJECTIVE:

Through cooperative efforts work with the National Wild Horse and Burro Show Association (NWHBSA).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Commission and the just completed the 11th annual National Show and fundraiser. The Commission and Show Committee are working in partnership with the Foundation to establish a wild horse registry and also encourage wild horse shows in every state in the Nation with the National Finals culminating annually in Reno.

OBJECTIVE:

The commission will seek partnership options for the Oliver Ranch Project, co-sponsored by the BLM and "Outside Las Vegas" to enhance educational programs for the environment as well as the wild horse program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The Commission has co-sponsored fundraisers for the construction of the wild horse exhibit and Chairperson Julie Von Tobel Gleason has been appointed in an advisory capacity to the Outside Las Vegas Foundation for the construction, design, and operation of the facility. Mrs. Gleason has been attending all of the coordination meetings and has been reporting to the Commission on activities to enhance the program.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

The 2001 Legislative Session authorized the creation of a non-profit organization, created for the purpose of marketing, education, and adoption of wild horses and burros.

PUBLICATIONS:

- ❑ Plan of Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations for the Preservation and Protection of the Wild Horses for the State of Nevada - January 1999
- ❑ Research and Recommendation for a National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation - June 1999
- ❑ Cost Aspects of Establishing and Operating a Wild Horse and Burro Foundation - October 1999
- ❑ Report to the 2001 Session of the Nevada Legislature from the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses of the Feasibility for the Creation of a Private Non-Profit National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation - February 2001

BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

